(a) whether Government have received any proposal from any quarter for making separate department or to define medium industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what is the worldwide phenomenon and what are Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) The Small Scale Industries Board in its 46th meeting held on 30th May, 2001, has recommended that the medium sector must be defined to help Small Scale Industries units to graduate to medium scale units. A Study Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission on "Devleopment of Small Enterprises" and the "Expenditure Reforms Commission" have also recommended that medium sector be defined separately.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection to SSIs

1348. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures contemplated by Government to provide protection to the small scale industries in light of free imports of goods earlier reserved for SSIs since April, 2001;

(b) whether there is any strategy for providing standardization of the products made by Small Scale Industries (SSIs); and

(c) the details of the steps taken to strengthen the SSIs during the last 2-3 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on the economy including the small scale industries (SSIs) in the country. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties and taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports.

(b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) issues licences to the domestic

industries including small scale industries, under the BIS certification marks scheme. To encourage SSIs to adopt BIS certification, concession on marking fee is given.

(c) Government have put in place several measures to strengthen our small scale industries and to make them globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs was announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for SSIs

1349. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'Credit Guarantee Scheme' in respect of small scale industries;

(b) the number of beneficiaries under the scheme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether the nationalised banks honour the scheme and provide loans to small entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Government have launched Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme on 30th August, 2000 with a view to alleviating the problem of collateral security and impediment to flow of credit to Small Scale Industries sector. This scheme is being operated by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries (CGTSI) through member lending institutions *i.e.*, Scheduled Commercial Bank (Public Sector, Private or Foreign Banks), select Regional Rural Banks, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd, or any other institutions as may be